

THE OBSERVER



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Peace tour brings African community leaders to SJC

— by Breain Ma'Ayteh —

For her Core 8 class last Monday, April 2, Professor Susan Chattin did not assign the class a reading from their books. Instead, she brought in people who could speak about the problems in Africa from first-hand experience, describing the situation better than any book possibly could.

The speakers were part of the 16th annual Africa Peace Tour, a group dedicated to promoting better understanding of African issues through education. The tour is sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee

(AFSC), a Quaker organization committed to social justice and humanitarian issues.

The three speakers spoke of the atrocities concerning several African countries today and spoke of their own experiences. Digya Salek Mohammed, a woman from Western Sahara, spoke about her time in a Southern Algeria refugee camp. Kalisa Rusangwa Remera and Liberia native Conmay Wesseh focused on the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Remera lost both his parents and his siblings during the mass killings and narrowly avoided his own death twice.

"People told us to turn to religion and church, but you had to leave the house to get to church, and it wasn't safe for people to be on the streets," he said.

Remera also showed the students and faculty a video about the events that led up to the mass slaughter.

"I was very impressed with the video," English professor John Groppe said. "I had no idea about the background of the genocide, and I

was shocked at the details of it, particularly the role of the Catholic Church and a Christian country such as Belgium."

Junior Tina Carroll was also moved. "After following the situation in Rwanda since it first broke, I was so moved by the courage of [Remera]. I could not imagine losing my entire family in such a horrific display of ethnic cleansing based on the size of person's nose," she said.

After the lecture, there were two question-and-answer periods to allow for interaction between the speakers and students. One student asked how the group felt about how Africa was portrayed through the eyes of the media in the United States..

"When you only have two or three minutes to give to a story, it is understandable that the focus will be on the sensational," Wesseh answered. "But you need to ask yourself, 'What happened before to make these current events happen now?' Look at the historical roots of the problem."

He also talked about gun control. "Even in the United States, places of security are no longer safe. We all need to come together and see that guns kill, whether you're black, white, red, or yellow."

Mohammed commented about her



REMERA SPEAKS of his experience during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Photo by Maia Kingman



SPEAKERS FROM RWANDA, Liberia and Western Sahara spoke to Core 8 students about the current state of Africa. Photo by Maia Kingman

impressions of America. "It's a powerful country, and it controls countries all over the world. You, the new generation, will play a big role in the future," she said.

Junior Sara Post commented, "I thought that the lecture was really interesting because people can tell you all kinds of things about Africa but the information never really hits home until you can hear a first-hand account."

This year's Africa Peace Tour began on March 30 and will conclude on April 6 in Ohio. Other stops include Michigan, Wisconsin and Washington, D.C.

John Boler to deliver 2001 commencement address

Million dollar donor and wife will also receive honorary degrees along with Fr. Dominic Gerlach

— by Heather Hagan —

As the graduation of this year's senior class rapidly approaches, the task of choosing the commencement speaker and honorary degree recipients has been completed. Mr. John Boler will deliver the commencement address and will be bestowed with an honorary degree. In addition, Boler's wife, Mary Jo, and Fr. Dominic Gerlach will receive honorary degrees at the May 6th commencement exercises.

Boler is founder and chairman of The Boler Company, which is among the largest privately-held vendors to the transportation industry. His son, Jim Boler, graduated from SJC in 1985. In December, Boler donated \$1 million to the College, making him the single largest donor in the school's history.

The choice of commencement speaker and honorary degree recipients is a process that begins with suggestions from the senior class, faculty, and board of trustees. These suggestions are channeled to President Shannon who is then charged with the task of contacting po-

tential speakers and securing the services of the chosen individual.

When gathering input from the senior class this year, an often-heard suggestion for commencement speaker was Fr. Jim Challancin, the beloved former chaplain of the College who left SJC to return to his home parish at the end of the 1999-2000 school year. Although Shannon agrees that Fr. Challancin would make an excellent speaker, he stated, "It was felt that we needed more time and distance between his departure and us honoring him in this way." It was ultimately decided that it would be better to bring Fr. Challancin back in a year or two.

"The process is a delicate balance between wanting the seniors' wishes to be reflected and my obligation to all the other constituencies of the College," President Shannon explained.

The choice of Boler is one that Shannon hopes will please both the senior class and the rest of the college community. Boler was, in fact, a suggestion of the senior class who recognized the tremendous contribution he has made to the College. In choosing a speaker, the Col-

lege looks for someone who shares the institution's values, understands its mission, and whose statment will make a positive contribution to the senior class.

According to President Shannon, Boler has "a passion for Catholic higher education" that stems from his own background as an alumnus of a small, Catholic College - Carroll College in Cleveland, OH - and chairman of that institution's board of trustees.

"John Boler has an understanding of the mission of this College," Shannon stated. "I hope that he will challenge the senior class to practice what they've been preached for the past four years and share with the class the life-changing potential of a Catholic education."

Senior class president Eric Schneider stated, "From what President Shannon has told me, Mr. Boler is an energetic man who encourages young people to take advantage of the opportunities that a college education offers them."

In addition to delivering the commencement address, Boler and his wife will also be receiving honorary degrees from the College. Fr. Dominic Gerlach,

a member of the College's C.P.P.S. community and the school's historian, will also be receiving an honorary degree.

"Each year, we try to recognize a member of the College's founding order," Shannon explained. "Fr. Gerlach has been with the College for five decades and this recognition is long overdue."

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Food for Thought

Meatless in Rensselaer

by John Ligda

As another Friday in Lent approaches, I begin to wonder what the cafeteria will be serving. Will it be BBQ ribs, poultry, hamburgers, or another wide assortment of fresh cold cuts? I have asked several people around campus why the café serves meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent. The response I get time after time is, "Not everyone on this campus is Catholic!" to which I can only respond, "Well...yes, but this is a Catholic school and you chose to attend Saint Joe!"

I am not pointing a finger at the students who are not Catholic or who are Catholic and not practicing. I am asking the school why they choose to ignore the fact that Sodexho Marriott deliberately serves meat on Fridays during Lent.

I attended an all-male Catholic high school of over 1,200 students, and only half of the student body was Catholic. My high school had no problem keeping with the precepts of the Catholic faith, so why does the Saint Joe dining hall?

My sister is a graduate of Saint Mary's College in South Bend, and they, like Saint Joe give students the option of eating meat on Fridays during Lent. I was always amazed that the University of Notre Dame, just across the street and almost three times the size of Saint Mary's, managed to delete meat from its menu on Fridays during Lent. Is this a sign of the times here at Saint Joe and at Saint Mary's? Is a Catholic college expected to abandon its religious traditions and conform to the routines of its students?

I am tired of walking into the café and having to remind myself that I will not eat meat. More than once, I have sat at lunch or dinner with someone who has mistakenly eaten meat on a Friday during Lent.

In this day and age when everyone seems to abandon their principles just to go along with the crowd, when individuals are ashamed to stand up for their religious beliefs, and when it is 'fashionable' to have our moral standards defined by music, movie and television entertainers, I fail to see why Saint Joseph's College cannot have the moral courage to set its own standard.

If any student, Catholic or not, cannot abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent, then we are admitting that self sacrifice is a lost cause and that self-discipline has given way to the 'whatever-makes-me feel-good' lifestyle. If today's students will not sacrifice for themselves, whatever would lead us to believe that they are ready and prepared to sacrifice for others? This is why we came to Saint Joe?

To be 21 or not to be 21

by Mandy Meyers

It seems as if Core XI has found its self in sort of a dilemma recently. There were several problems with minors being let in and served alcohol, as well as some heated arguments that have supposedly occurred.

I understand that this is a problem and it should be corrected. However, I feel that the blame should not be put upon those bartending in Core XI. I think the responsibility falls upon the students and security.

Here is my philosophy in a nutshell, so listen up. First of all, why would you want to be some place where you are not welcome? From personal experience, I find it irritating to find underclassmen in Core XI. No one wants you there, so just go back to your dorm room and wait. The rest of us have; I think you can handle it too.

Second, why is there no one checking IDs at the door? Is that not a responsibility of Security? If you have no one checking IDs, ANYONE is going to walk in, regardless of whether or not there is sign on the door saying "You must be 21 to enter." A sign is certainly not going to

stop minors from walking in. Someone needs to be responsible for checking IDs to prevent minors from entering the bar in the first place.

Third, the bartenders have a job to do when they are in Core XI. Their job is to bartend, not to check IDs. How are they supposed to know if the person they are serving is 21? They trust that the person who walked in is 21. All of the ID checking should be done at the door. If I am wrong in any of these assessments, please inform me.

So here is my solution to a simple problem. Have someone from security (preferably someone who works full-time) check IDs from 9PM-12PM outside Core XI. The student should bring two forms of ID and be a member of Core XI to enter the bar. Once it is midnight, no one should be allowed to enter. You can leave but you cannot be let back in. There is much complaining about minors being let into Core XI; however, no one has put forth an effort into NOT letting them enter. So obviously there is a problem. Someone needs to start doing their job and checking students' IDs. If you think students are going to be honest about their age, you can think again.

WHY IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A PUMA

by Heather Hagan

It's a popular pastime of young Puma students here at Saint Joe to complain about the school we call "home" for nine months out of the year. I don't think this is unique to SJC, by any means. I'm sure that students across the country have a few gripes about their respective colleges.

I can't help but think, though, that we sometimes don't pay enough attention to all the things we love about Saint Joe. We all came here for a reason, whether it be a certain sport, scholarship offers, the small size of the school or its distance from home. Each one of us chose to be here for one reason or another.

Sure, I've done my fair share of complaining about this place (some of it publicly on this very page of *The Observer*). But being a senior has given me some perspective. If you think back on most of your life experiences, you will find that the bad things tend to be forgotten and the good things are what you look back on with fond memories. I think that the same will be true of my time at Saint Joe.

Call me sentimental, but I've already begun thinking about the things I'm going to miss about good 'ole SJC. There are, of course, the things I came to Saint Joe for in the first place: small class size, excellent faculty, the Core program, blah blah blah.... That's the boring stuff; the same stuff that 99% of the student body brags about when we brag about Saint Joe. The things I'm really going to miss are the things that are completely unique to this school; the things I've come to love over the past four years.

Here's a sampling of just a few:

- * The first time you spot the Twin Towers on the horizon after returning from summer vacation.
- * Professors who know me even though I've never taken one of their classes.
- * Little 500
- * Frisbee players on the IM field during the first warm spring day of the year (Note to guys: this is much less appealing when you go shirtless!)
- * Skip and MJ dressed as Santa and Mrs. Clause bringing homemade cookies to each dorm room at Christmas.
- * Busy Bee (OK, so it's not technically part of Saint Joe, but it might as well be)
- * Chicken parmesan night in the café.
- * The almost-too-comfortable couches and chairs in the Core building.
- * The last Core lecture of the year.
- * The way we use any excuse to go to Stunt Dawg and get t-shirts made.
- * Bookstore sales.
- * Hearing Skip say those eight magic words: "It's a great day to be a Puma!"

I could go on, but I'm limited by time, space, and your patience to indulge me. My point in all of this is that while there may be things about Saint Joe that irritate us, those things will be meaningless in 5, 10, 15 years. When we someday look back on our memories of Saint Joe, it will be with fondness for all the little things that make this place truly special.

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The *Observer* staff
would like to congratulate Dan
Adams on being
named the 2000-
2001 Saint Joseph's
College Senior of
the Year.



**Congratulations,
Dan!**

“Puma Pix” is a hit for WPUM-TV

— by Melissa Genova —

The panelists all stir anxiously in their seats while they await the pending results. Four students voted on their favorite movie theme song and after bouts of arguing and the elimination of songs, the host reveals the results: “And the number one song is...”

This sounds much like an episode of VH1’s new hit game show “The List.” “The List” is a show in which a celebrity panel, along with the studio audience, nominates and votes for the songs that best represent the ultimate list of songs that relate to the particular topic. After a grueling process of elimination which allows each panelist to remove songs from the final list, the group is eventually able to determine which song is number one. SJC’s version of this program borrows the idea of “The List,” but the show on WPUM-TV 6 is a product of the SJC studio.

“Puma Pix” was ultimately the brainchild of eight video production students, under the advising of Professor Fred Berger.

“For our class, we had to create a new television program,” explained junior Courtney Coe, one of the producers. “There were about three or four different ideas, but this one was everyone’s favorite. It was the most creative.”

There were sixteen episodes created over the span of the semester, but the last episode will not air until finals week. Each episode is already taped, however.

“Each of us produced two episodes,” explained Coe. “As a producer, each student was responsible for their own set design and finding panelists.”

Among those who worked on Puma Pix was junior Kristen Marshall. Marshall was responsible for some of the technical aspects of the production, specifically for CD burning and the use of PowerPoint on the show. She was, as Coe commented, “a lifesaver!”

Upperclassmen are not the only Pumas to work on “Pix.” Many underclassmen added their talents and helped produce the show. Freshman John Ligda, a Basic Video student, helped the crew out with taping.

“The episodes were all done very well. The class did an excellent job,” Ligda stated.

All work and no play makes SJC students dull, but the students did not have to worry about being too dull because the show kept everyone busy.

One of Coe’s favorite episodes was “one of Tim Newman’s that Lisa Chocholek hosted. The contestants got along really well and were really active in the program,” she said.

Though things ran smoothly, plans for continuing the show next year are tentative. According to Ligda, “It was an Advanced Video project, and that class is only held for one semester every other year. It was also a very difficult show to produce.”

Remembering Justin Oppenheim

SJC historian tells the tale of the famous jersey

— by Fr. Dominic Gerlach —

Thanks to Mike Shanesy, SJC ’68 and relative of Justin Oppenheim, a relic of SJC’s past has just returned after 82 years. SJC alumnus and benefactor Justin Oppenheim used this historic basketball jersey in his senior year of high school, 1918-1919, as a member but substitute on the varsity basketball team. It is a colorful jersey, used also for a football jersey since it absorbed perspiration.

Surprisingly, Justin was allowed to keep his jersey as a souvenir. It has a black background, since it was used for away games. A team photograph shows Justin wearing the white version. The basketball game had a good season, supposedly the best thus far, winning 12 out of 14 games. Most of the players were older than Justin, for they were already of college age. But he was called a “promising” player. Incidentally, he also played first violin in the College orchestra.

Enrollment at the time was about 300. Cost per semester was \$160 including bed, board, tuition and laundry (plus repair), less \$10 in advance, which Justin was probably able to take advantage of.

There was no sports conference. Outside games were scheduled individually.

What they called the “varsity” team was actually the College “representative” team, therefore called the SJC “Reps.”

There were no athletic scholarships either. Yet this team practiced long and hard; for the love and glory. Since students could rarely leave the campus, the Reps were guaranteed a full and loud audience at home games. SJC still had no professional coach. On the picture, a second year college student, Bernard Lear, was acting as coach.

In charge of athletics was a SJC “Athletic Association,” made up of nine students with three officers and six members. The perennial faculty moderator was Fr. Albin Scheidler, C.P.S. seminarians, which proved to be formidable competitors. He probably called most of the shots, as he told me personally in later years.

Football seems to have had a varsity only. Other sports were tennis and the Turner Gymnastic Club, which was Fr. Scheidler’s pride and joy.

There is an interesting story behind the Oppenheim name. Justin’s father, Joseph Oppenheim, was a schoolteacher at Maria Stein in Ohio. He was annoyed each spring when farmers would keep their children

home to help with cleaning out the stables and transferring the “substance” out to the field as fertilizer. The children’s chore was to scratch the “substance” apart so as to spread it over the field evenly. So Mr. Oppenheim conceived an invention. It consisted of an ordinary farm wagon to which were attached interlocking gears that, powered by the horses pulling the wagon, would slowly empty and scatter the manure out behind the wagon. This and the company formed were soon called New Idea, Inc. In 1907, the factory was moved into an enlarged facility in nearby Coldwater, Ohio, which in time began producing a full line of farm machinery. Thus did Justin’s father make an important contribution to education at a time when farm children made up nearly one-half of the nation’s school population.

After completing a master’s degree in Economics at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. in 1923, Justin at once joined the family enterprise. He moved up the ranks from sales clerk in 1923 to president, 1945 to 1949. Ill health, however, forced him into retirement. It was then, 1950 until his death in 1968, that he served on what became the SJC Board of Trustees. In his will he left SJC \$250,000.00 which helped considerably in completing Justin Hall that same year.

Spring musical greeted with “roar” of applause



SOPHOMORE NICK SCHAFER in the role of Cocky and Freshman Mark Brower as Sir, share a duet. *Photo courtesy of Mandy Meyers*

The Columbian Players presented their annual Spring musical, “The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd” March 30 - April 1 in the Science Auditorium.

Greasepaint is an allegory for society and the problems faced by the little guy. It is the story of Sir and Cocky who travel about playing “the game.”

Cocky, the quintessential everyman, plays the game of life against Sir, who symbolizes the upperclasses, and who changes the rules every time. Cocky thinks he understands how the game is played. The musical addresses many of the problems that face the modern world, yet maintains a sense of fun, mixing English Music Hall humor with a witty, well written score.

(Information courtesy of Maia Kingman)

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR
in the Courtney Auditorium
on Tuesday, April 17th, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENTING: Roger Riley of Edward Jones

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Get Started on Your Future!

Puma Profile:

A closer look at SJC First Lady M.J. Shannon

by Mike Potts

His hand was callused from greeting the unfathomable stream of well wishers as he stood firm on the plush green of the White House lawn. In 1829 Andrew Jackson was the newly inaugurated President of the United States. To his countrymen he was just an ordinary man, the first common president.

In 1993, Skip Shannon, with the same firm handshake as Jackson possessed, was also inaugurated to the presidency. Not that of the United States, but of Saint Joseph's College. It is often noted that like Jackson, President Shannon is both a common man and a common president. Yet in the same breath, he is far from ordinary. His extraordinary presence is a comforting one.

But behind every great man, there is a great woman.

To take this notion farther, one could argue that behind every great president, stands a great first lady. The role of first ladies in our history has progressed through the years, ranging from women who juggled political alliances to even their own marriages. From ribbon-cutting figureheads who throw grand parties, to ceremonial backdrops, to important world figures, first ladies have always played an important role.

Though it is certainly not to the degree of America's first lady, the first lady of Saint Joe is a very important figure respectfully. In 1993, her husband did not climb the ladder to become president of the college by himself. M.J. Shannon was right beside him, taking the climb rung by rung.

Raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, M.J. met Skip in 1967 through his parents, whom attended her

family's parish. Skip courted her through college both at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and Penn State. In 1971, the two were married and began their lives together in Boston.

But New England would not be a permanent home for the Shannons. From there they lived in South Bend, New Jersey, Philadelphia, and finally Rensselaer. "We liked the Midwest," M.J. explained, "and we would be closer to family." Whether M.J.



M.J. SHANNON IS the first President's wife in SJC's history. The SJC community will miss the Shannons as they return to New England at the end of this school year. *Photo by Mike Potts*

M.J. HAS BEEN involved with the Art Department during her time at SJC, occasionally taking time out to help students with their artistic endeavors. *Photo courtesy of Phase year-book.*



knew it at the time or not, moving to Saint Joe would greatly extend that family.

Since coming to Saint Joe, M.J. has become a very beloved figure. She has become family. Though she admitted that she prefers to stay in the background, she has hardly accomplished that feat.

With her simple, down-to-earth ways, M.J. Shannon has captured the friendship and admiration of students, faculty and neighbors alike, for M.J. Shannon is a hard person not to like. Like many first ladies, a good deal of her time is spent fundraising and entertaining. Entertaining is where she is at her best. At no other home could you feel more comfortable than at the Shannons'. M.J. is a conversationalist; a very easy person to talk to. For many she is also a great listener.

Perhaps what makes M.J. (and her husband, for that matter) so cordial, is that she is not the structured or reserved type, but rather more laid-back. This is not to say that she is not a serious person, for she knows how to get things done. But she is able to do it in such a comforting style. Commenting on the way students refer to her as M.J. instead of the more customary "Mrs. Shannon", she answered with a question herself. "How can I have a young adult call me Mrs. Shannon?" Recognizing the students as her equals, and not just kids, is a strong part of her appeal.

Moving away from her professional role at Saint Joe, M.J. believes her more personal role is to be a strong support system for her husband. Letting him know that everything is fine at home, M.J. feels, is very important.

The more "fun" side of the job, M.J. tells, is "doing things with the students." She enjoys going to events, from Homecoming, to sporting events, to Little 500. Both she and her husband keep a high profile around campus, choosing to remain visible and engaged in the lives of SJC students. This is in stark contrast to some other institutions where students barely know who the president is, let alone his wife.

Most of all, M.J. loves being around the students. "That's what it's all about," she said. "Encouraging growth and development. To be there for them, to help them."

While we all will sorely miss the Shannons when they move back to New England at the end of the school year, we can not ignore how lucky St. John's Prep School is. They are getting more than just a wonderful President and First Lady. They are getting two great friends.

LOCAL NEWS

Rensselaer police officer recognized for act of bravery

by Breain Ma'Ayteh

On Monday, March 25, Rensselaer police officer Russell Sonaty was awarded with a letter of commendation on behalf of the Rensselaer Police Department at Monday's city council meeting. Sonaty was publicly recognized for his exemplary performance on Feb. 11, when he saved a nine-year-old boy from drowning in the Iroquois River.

Sonaty was on duty around 4 p.m. when he got the call. A boy had fallen in the river near the municipal parking lot while playing with his friends. The officer reached the river and saw the little boy with his arms wrapped around a tree in the river, fighting against swift currents. The boy had been in the water five to 10 minutes already; he complained to Sonaty that he couldn't feel his legs.

"All you could see was his head, neck and arms; those were the only things out of water," Sonaty said. When handling an emergency situation, officers are instructed to put their safety first at all times.

"That's hard to do, though," the officer confessed. "Sometimes you just have to go with your common sense and do what needs to be done."

Sonaty made his way down the ice on the riverbank, positioned himself against the tree and grabbed hold of

the boy. Using both his arms to climb out of the water, the child had both his arms wrapped around Sonaty's neck. The two made it successfully out of the water. The whole ordeal lasted about three minutes.

The ambulance showed up a short time later and took the child to Jasper County hospital, where he was treated for hypothermia. He was released the next day. Sonaty was unharmed.

This is the Rensselaer officer's second letter of commendation, the first also a result of outstanding behavior in an emergency situation. In August of 1999, he pulled a man out of the same spot of the Iroquois River. The man was

drunk and had driven into the river.

Russell Sonaty has been on the R.P.D. for three years. He attended Vincennes University and studied conservation law enforcement. His original plan was to become a law conservation officer, but there was a change in plans.

"I was working in construction when I heard about an opening [for a police officer] in Rensselaer. I wanted to stay in the area, so I applied for the job. I've been here ever since."

He added, "Rensselaer is a nice place to work. I plan to retire here, if they'll have me." Sonaty lives in Newton County with his wife and two children.

"Sometimes you just have to go with your common sense and do what needs to be done."

- Russell Sonaty

SJC Prepares for National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

by Megan Taylor

What is S.A.F.E.R. ?

SAFER stands for *Sexual Assault Factual Education for Resistance*. There are two local divisions, one at SJC and one at Jasper County Hospital. We carry pagers 24 hours a day which get beeped when someone gets sexually assaulted, and we respond within an hour or less to the hospital to be a support system to the survivor. Our responsibilities include helping to explain the examination that must take place to send the offender to court, serving as someone to hold the survivor's hand through the experience, spreading awareness of the prevention and treatment of sexual assault and empowering people with the knowledge to help them spread the awareness to others. Whatever is discussed during a call is strictly confidential. We are bound by this agreement to the highest degree as we will not speak to family, friends, or even the police about what occurs during the call.

Who is SAFER?

The SJC division is a collection of students who believe that sexual assault and rape are crucial issues that people need to know how to deal with. One in four women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, and the education that we provide will help our peers know what to do if one of their friends or they themselves become a victim.

Currently, our active members include:

Dannielle Pruett, Kate Nowalk, Carrie Oswald, Anne Domasica, Maggie Mackovec, Sara Post, Maura Giles, Jen Reitz (faculty advisor), Megan Taylor (president), Erin Burton, and Theresa Kreinbrink.

How do you become a member of SAFER?

At SJC, you have the option of going through complete training, which includes a 3-hour seminar and an interview, or, if you are uncomfortable carrying the beeper you can be a member whose duties would be to help put on programs and organize events in the community both in Rensselaer and on campus.

What does SAFER have planned?

The SJC branch is fairly new and is taking off in full force this month. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. A Take Back the Night service, guest speakers, surveys, ribbon wearing and outreach are all in the works.

Any member of the SJC community who wants to participate in SAFER, or has any questions should contact a member, or Megan Taylor ext. 8054.



S.A.F.E.R.

If you or someone you know has been raped:

- Go to a safe place and dial 911
- Do not bathe/shower
- Do not brush your teeth
- Do not use the restroom
- Do not change your clothes
- Do not smoke or drink if possible
- Bring identification and change of clothing with you to the facility if possible



by Don Shanahan

At the Movies with Don: Reach Out and Watch "Someone"

The fabled differences between the male human animal and the female human animal are well-documented and discussed in our society. From the sexual Marquis de Sade to the studies of Freud to the modern best-selling *Men Are From Mars, Women are From Venus*, the contention of superiority and attraction has carried on for centuries. Movie are yet another arena where this drama of opposites is played out. From the low-ball *He Said, She Said*, the embattled *War of the Roses*, and to the star-studded *What Women Want*, opposites have attracted all over the silver screen.

Someone Like You is the latest tale of the uncanny and tumultuous attraction between men and women. Ashley Judd of thrilling *Kiss the Girls* and *Double Jeopardy* fame plays Jane Goodale, a staff assistant on a popular New York daytime talk show. Jane is a successful but lonely woman who gets through her day thinking about why she is approaching 30 and still alone. Between her own failed relationships and helping her best friend and magazine editor Liz (Marisa Tomei of *What Women Want*), Jane believes that settling down is hopeless.

At work, her view of men is strained between two very different co-workers. The first is Ray (Greg Kinnear of *As Good As It Gets*), the fetching new man in the office who, despite being in a long relationship, catches the eye of Jane. The other is Eddie (newcomer Hugh Jackman, sans his mutten-chop Wolverine sideburns from *X-Men*), a seductive lothario who embodies everything that Jane despises in men.

After finding a mutual attraction at the office, the two have an affair together behind the back of Ray's mysterious current girlfriend. After a few months of passion and the decision to possibly live together, Ray

doesn't have the courage to tell his girlfriend about Jane. Irrationally, Ray then breaks off the relationship with Jane leaving her a homeless and distressed mess after really falling for Ray. This mini-tragedy sends Jane in a tailspin of thought about men, especially after moving in with Eddie temporarily.

Jane cannot contain her dissatisfaction with men and decides to re-search a theory she has in mind that she calls the "Old Cow/New Cow Theory." Modeled after the way a male bull will not sire the same heifer twice after he has "had" her, Jane thinks men act the very same way. They sow their oats of love and sex and move on, unable to tolerate the same women for a prolonged period of time. Through reflecting on her own failures and constantly observing her roommate Eddie's philandering ways, she anonymously writes an editorial column of her theory under a pseudonym for Liz's magazine. The editorial becomes the talk of New York and worshipped by fellow women like Jane.

In all of her theorizing and disdain, life begins to throw a few twists at Jane. As it turns out, she sees Eddie to be not as bad of a guy as he shows himself to be and that Ray wants her back. At the same time, all of New York City and her talk-show host boss want to

know the true identity of the "Old Cow/New Cow Theory" writer. Jane definitely then has a few decisions to make that finish that no good movie critic should divulge to his audience.

Carrying its theory plotline through every character, *Someone Like You* is a sumptuously interesting and funny romantic comedy. While watching Jane at work, you cannot help but humorously test the "Old Cow/New Cow Theory" on your own past or current relationships. The funny thing about the theory is that men are not at fault in their bull-like ways or even the women and their overindulgence of passion. In a sense, each side is just naturally screwed up.

In that weird way, *Someone Like You* is definitely a romantic comedy that men and women can watch together and not feel forced into choosing sides. Directed by actor Tony Goldwyn (the turncoat friend from *Ghost*), the movie offers truth and appeal for both sides. Women have two leading men to drool over and the stirring independence of Jane's theory. For the men, Ashley Judd is more than downright hot and, as aforementioned, the men are not beat up with blame but active and cool.

Gentlemen, it looks like you've just found your spring date movie for you and the lady. Don't pass it up!



ASHLEY JUDD AND Hugh Jackman star in the romantic comedy *Someone Like You*.

Lady Puma softball falls off promising start

The Frank Wilkins regime begins with a 6-4 start, the most successful spring Florida trip in school history, but is currently stuck in a long and hard 14-game losing streak.

—by Don Shanahan—

Just as the SJC baseball team received their light in *The Observer* sun last issue, it is the Saint Joseph's College women's softball team that gets top billing this week. The Lady Pumas are under first year coach Frank Wilkins. Coach Wilkins gives the Pumas a solid coach for the future in a program that has bounced around three interim coaches (Kevin Furnish, Camie Bechtold, and Jim Langen) since the 1999 departure of previous coach Mark Settle. Last season, the Lady Pumas went 13-33 overall and had a 7-15 record in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Frank came to SJC after successfully coaching for StarPath Softball, a program he himself formed, amassing a 397-105 career record as coach. His experience is deeply rooted in Indiana softball as his StarPath team competed against some of the best fast pitch softball teams in the country and won four state titles in the two years in the Indiana Women's and Women's Major divisions in 1998 and 1999.

Wilkins and his Lady Pumas open their 2001 season in traditional school fashion with their annual spring trip to Florida to compete in the Spring Rebel Games. The Florida trip has perennially been the measuring stick for the team's ability to face big-time competition and start the season solidly. Among new expectations and new blends between coach and player, the Lady Pumas went 6-4 on their spring trip, winning five of their last seven. Such a positive record was the most successful spring trip in team history.

The Lady Pumas scored victories over Ferris State, Shippensburg, Dowling, Lake Superior State, South Dakota, and New Haven. Against Ferris State, freshman Maria Kaczanowski tallied the 3-2 "W" after Kim Hamel's victory-securing two-run double in the bottom frame of the seventh. The FSU win was followed with a shutout losses to Indiana (PA) 4-0



THE SJC LADY

Puma softball team gets a night off on the town outside of their hotel in Kissimmee, Florida. The women returned to Indiana 6-4 from their week in the Spring Rebel Games. Such a win-loss record was the softball team's most successful spring Florida trip in school history. *Photo by Geri Mazurek*

and Concordia.

The Lady Pumas turned their trip around by winning the next four. Shippensburg was their first victim as freshman Erika Cheslik struck out three hitters over four innings en route to the team's 3-1 victory. Senior Kim Hamel was the offensive powderkeg for the team with a two hit, two run, and one RBI performance at the plate. Junior Beth Nix was brought in for the save out of the bullpen. A late surge, led by sophomore Nikki Pecho's two hits, secured the next win over Dowling 4-0 behind Beth Nix's winning relief work. Next, the women scorched Lake Superior State 5-1 with Erika Cheslik's winning mound work. In the final game of the winning streak, the team slid past South Dakota 6-5. Beth Nix got the win out of the bullpen again for Wilkins after a six-run seventh inning by the Lady Pumas.

Two consecutively dry days at the plate led to two straight losses after the streak. The team only managed three hits against the ominous and nationally ranked Truman State (5-0 loss) and only four hits against Minnesota State (2-0 loss). As icing on the Florida cake, the Pumas did finish the trip with a 3-2 win over New Haven. Beth Nix again pulled out the late victory. In the contest, it was sophomore Brooke Mitchell's eighth in-

ning RBI single scoring freshman Stacey Klemme that sealed the win.

After the Spring Rebel Games in Florida, the team had some down time from competition for a week and a half to prepare for the regular season ahead. The Lady Pumas' season is arranged as mostly doubleheader contests with their opponents.

It is on their first set since Florida, that the Lady Pumas tallied their first sweep of the season over Taylor University. Erika Cheslik sent 11 TU'ers back to the bench they stepped up from with strikeouts in the first game and a 5-1 victory. At the plate, senior Amy Creager had two hits and two runs scored. Nikki Pecho and senior Shanna Arnold backed up that performance with a RBI each of their own. In the second game, the Lady Pumas exploded for 10-0 shutout of Taylor. Shanna Arnold tallied three RBIs this time around, while Nikki Pecho and senior Mary Mazurek added two RBIs each in the scoring frenzy. Kim Hamel ended up with three of the runs scored. Mari Kaczanowski improved to 2-2 with the dominant win.

Big sweep or not, the Lady Pumas biggest test of the season came with their next two-game set. It was the first two home games of the season and the start of the GLVC season. They were also the two first official games in the field's new dugouts built over the summer. The opponent was GLVC rival Lewis University. Lewis came into Rensselaer at #9 in the nation. Unfortunately, they left even stronger after two shutout wins over SJC. Cheslik and Kaczanowski took the losses, while Kim Hamel managed five hits across the two-game home opener.

While the losses were to a tough opponent, the Lady Pumas have not been able to regain the spark and composure of their 8-4 start. The March 22 Lewis defeats were the start to a 14 game losing streak that the team is still in as of this issue's deadline to press.

Bellarmino came first with 8-9 and 2-4 defeats over Beth Nix and Maria Kaczanowski. In the close first game, Shanna Arnold, Mary Mazurek, and junior Jenny Varner each had two hits for

the Lady Puma cause.

The Panthers of Kentucky Wesleyan University were no kinder handing out 1-2 and 0-7 losses. The lone run of the opening game came on Shanna Arnold's sacrifice fly RBI which brought home Mazurek. Arnold did try again in the second game posting two of the team's five hits.

Two Southern Indiana wins (4-1 and 11-5) lowered the record to 8-12 and began a rough 0-6 homestand. In the early USI game, Amy Creager scored the only SJC run. In the late game, Mary Mazurek contributed two hits and two RBIs in the defeat.

April brought no new luck as SIU-Edwardsville swept the Lady Pumas on April 1, 10-6 and 4-1. On early Sunday pairing, Lauren Roberts and AJ Claussen both got on base with hits twice and scored twice. Kim Hamel helped out going 2-for-4 at the plate, while Amy Creager had two runs batted in. The bright spot and lone run of the second game came on a Nikki Pecho solo home run in the seventh inning.

The last two losses of the homestand came at the hands of Wisconsin-Parkside. SJC only managed two hits per game in the 9-0 and 3-0 losses.

The slow run-producing continued on the team's rematch road trip to Lewis University, the final games to make this April 12th issue. The Pumas managed only three hits and no runs in the 6-0 game one loss. The second game brought good news and bad news. The good news was that the team fought back and recomposed themselves after the first game and kept the second game very close against the dominant Lewis team. Erika Cheslik went the distance, but ended on the losing end of a heartbreakingly narrow 1-0 loss. SJC scattered five hits, two from Shanna Arnold, but couldn't group them together to score any runs.

While the loss can be seen as the bad news of the story, the worst came from a frightening injury at the plate for the Lady Pumas. Invaluable senior first baseman Shanna Arnold fouled a wicked pitch off her bat which went up under



THE LADY PUMAS organize themselves to take the field during a recent game on the road. As of April 10, the Pumas are 8-18. *Photo by Peg Briner*

SJC Softball-- Continued

her helmet and striking her hard in the face. Arnold finished the Lewis weekend getting fixed up at a hospital with injuries to her mouth, lip, teeth, and jaw. Word from her teammates is that she is banged up, but OK to possibly make a return this season. Currently past the 1/2 mark in the season, the Lady Pumas stand with a 8-18 overall record and a tough-to-swallow 0-12 GLVC record. For the 2001 season, the team is very senior-orientated in performance on the field and at the plate.

As one can determine from the season highlights, the elders have worked the plate strongly. Seniors Shanna Arnold, Amy Creager, Kim Hamel, and Mary Mazurek all have more than 60 at-bats so far this year. Along with Beth von Almen and Heidi Wieland, the class of 2001 has anchored this team in terms of leadership, experience and responsibility.

Statistically, the Lady Pumas are lead by a host mixture of classes and players. Junior Kim Hamel leads the team in hits with 21 in 69 plate appearances (for a very respectable .304 average), seven of those being doubles. Senior Mary Mazurek leads the starting squad with a .311 average, 13 runs, and four stolen bases. Sophomore Nikki Pecho carries the team lead in runs batted in with 11 and has the team's lone home run.

On the mound, freshman Maria Kaczanowski has pitched the most innings (61.2) and completed the most games (6). Fellow fresh-

Head Coach Frank Wilkins



(Photo from SJC Athletics homepage)

man hurler Erika Cheslik has a starter-best 2.31 earned run average, a team-high 44 strikeouts, and is tied for the team lead in wins with three along side junior closer Beth Nix. Nix posted the pitching corps lone save as well.

Under The Observer coverage radar for this issue, the Lady Puma softball team will face Marian College at home today at 3:00pm across Sparling Avenue on the softball field.

After that, the team travels on a week-end trip to face Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky on April 13th and 14th before coming home to host IPFW on April 18th. Down the road, the Lady Pumas participate in the heavily anticipated GLVC vs. GLIAC Challenge on the weekend of April 21st and 22nd.

If you have some free time on your final weekend of the school year, please come out and enjoy the sunny spring days supporting this hard-working team!

SJC track teams continue to climb up the national ranks

—by Don Shanahan—

As evident from the indoor season and last issue's opening report on the outdoor season, the SJC men's and women's track and field teams are doing extremely well. In a way, that is to be expected with the always exemplary coaching of Athletic Director Bill Massoels. As of April 10, the SJC men's team was ranked 8th and the women's team 12th in the nation according to the current USTCA Division II Track and Field Rankings of the 2001 Outdoor Season.

On the individual level, senior Joe Koczan was 9th nationally is the discus in NCAA Division II competition with a season-best heave of 167' 7". This is after Joe qualified earlier this year for two events (shot put and 35 lb. weight throw) during the indoor season.

Since the last Observer report, the SJC track and field teams have had two more successful meets—The Gerry England Invitational from the University of Indianapolis and the Chicagoland Championships from North Central College. The following were the top ten finishers from both meets.

GERRY ENGLAND INVITATIONAL

(at University of Indiana)

Top Men's Finishers (5th overall place out of eleven teams)

Tim Newman—1st 800m run
Jason Johnson—1st 400m hurdles
Joe Koczan—1st shot put
Joe Koczan—2nd discus
Greg Myers—2nd high jump
Greg Myers—4th triple jump
Josh Hughes—5th high jump
Aaron Thomas—5th hammer throw
Joe Koczan—6th hammer throw
Rickey McCray—6th 200m dash
4x100m relay team—6th

Joe Graves—6th javelin throw
Josh Hughes—7th long jump
Jason Johnson—7th 110m hurdles
4x400m relay team—7th
Rickey McCray—8th 100m dash
Matt Stout—8th 10,000m run

Top Women's Finishers (4th overall place of nine teams)

Melissa Kleinmaus—1st 400m hurdles
Kim Noon—1st javelin throw
Alexis Virtue—2nd 10,000m run
Jaymi Hartzler—2nd 3000m run
Maria Toledo—2nd 5000m run
Lyndi Cruikshank—3rd long jump
Lyndi Cruikshank—3rd triple jump
Jamie Marshall—3rd 400m hurdles
Sarah Garman—3rd shot put
Sarah Garman—3rd discus
4x100m relay team—3rd
Kim Noon—4th discus
Kelli Deckard—5th hammer throw
4x400m relay team—6th
Teresa Gaura—6th 800m run
Anne Balmes—7th pole vault
Sarah Garman—7th hammer throw
Kelli Deckard—7th shot put
Kelli Deckard—7th discus

CHICAGOLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

(at North Central College)

Two school record were broken during the meet by Kim Noon and Joe Koczan respectively. Noon broke the school record for women's javelin with her second place meet throw of 115' 6". Joe Koczan extended his season-high qualifying mark in the discus competition with a 168' 8" first place throw.

Top Men's Finishers (3rd overall out of 16 teams)

Joe Koczan—1st discus
Joe Koczan—1st hammer throw

Joe Koczan—2nd shot put
Tim Newman—2nd 1500m run
Matt Stout—2nd 5000m run
Dan Westphal—3rd 5000m run
Josh Hughes—3rd high jump
Josh Hughes—4th long jump
Greg Myers—4th high jump
Aaron Thomas—4th hammer throw
Joe Graves—4th javelin throw
Jason Johnson—5th long jump
Aaron Thomas—5th discus
Greg Myers—6th triple jump
Jared Weller—6th 10,000m run
Jason Johnson—6th 400m hurdles
4x400m relay team—7th
Andy Cool—8th discus

Top Women's Finishers (5th overall out of 16 teams)

Kim Noon—1st hammer throw
Kim Noon—2nd javelin throw
Kim Noon—2nd discus
Melissa Kleinmaus—2nd 400m hurdles
Nancy Giovingo—3rd pole vault
Kelli Deckard—4th hammer throw
Jamie Marshall—5th 400m hurdles
Lyndi Cruikshank—5th triple jump
Kelli Deckard—5th shot put
Alexis Virtue—5th 5000m run
4x400m relay team—6th
Kelli Deckard—7th discus
Jaymi Hartzler—8th 1500m run
4x100m relay team—8th

Over the Easter weekend, both the men's and women's SJC track and field teams continue their strides outdoors. Track action takes the team to DePauw University for the Little State Championships on April 14. After that, the teams have the big GLVC Championships from Lewis University over the weekend of April 20-21. Finally, don't forget the inaugural Saint Joseph's College Invitational here at home on April 28!

Brent Mason awarded another prestigious honor

—by Don Shanahan—

As it turns out since the last issue of The Observer, the SJC Men's Basketball wasn't finished picking up awards. In fulfilling the words of SJC's own fight song, Lafayette, IN native and SJC junior Brent Mason continued to "pile up the spoils of fight" and "add to his honor bright." Forward Brent Mason was recently named to the NCAA Division II Bulletin All-American Honorable Mention Team for the 2000-2001 men's basketball season.

Mason was the offensive leader of an

18-13 Puma men's basketball team which finished fourth in the GLVC conference. Statistically over the course of the season, Brent Mason averaged 20.9 points per game, 6.5 rebounds per game, 47% field goal shooting, 43% three-point shooting, and 94% free throw shooting. Those numbers were good enough to be 23rd in the nation on scoring average and 2nd in the nation in free throw percentage for NCAA Division II. Such outstanding season figures rose Brent to the current position of 10th on SJC career scoring list for

men's basketball (1,346 points).

Since the beginning of the season, Mason has racked up a number of team, conference, regional, and national accolades. Previous to his All-American selection, Brent was named to the All-Great Lakes Valley Conference First Team, the All Great Lakes Region Second Team, the Daktronics Inc. All-Great Lakes Region Second Team, and the Pepsi/GLVC All-Tournament Team. He was also named GLVC Player of the Week three times over the course of the season.

The SJC Men's Basketball team coached by Dave Balza and assisted by Ken Carrillo and Chris Highfield came together for their annual Appreciation Banquet back on Sunday, April 10, 2001. One of the evening's festivities beyond dinner and final thoughts were the season awards. The recipients are as follows:

Hank Kressler Memorial Senior
Brandon Yates
Richard F. Scharf Coaches Award
Jamie Holden

Max Trump Award Brent Mason
Most Improved Hodges Smith
Leading Rebounder
Brandon Yates

Academic Achievement Award
Seth Perigo
Top Defensive Player
Marlin Murphy

DREAM

I saw an old man
sitting in the park
Then there was a turtle
moving up to the mark
A gun went off, and the tortoise ran
He left the park
and so did the man

I watched them both
from the top of a tree
I was all alone, just the wind
and me.
Jumped off the top branch
and floated to the ground
Landed on my feet,
on top of a mound

Deer were flying across the field
With wings stretched full,
the trees their shield
The birds all ran across the sky
I opened my wings and started to fly

Then I entered the sun's caress
Pushed past the clouds
and into the mess
Flew up and up
straight to the ground
Sped toward the grass,
then turned around

Plunged
into the water at break neck speed
And swam about amongst the reeds
Through the currents,
I moved up stream
To the rock face
then between the seems

Into the cave, so dark and damp
Down through the earth
to make my camp
My head went down
on a pillow of shale
And I covered myself
with a dragon's tail.

To sleep I went, then woke again
At home in my bed,
where I had been
All along this was a dream
Much more real than it seemed

Nicholas Schafer

Word Play

as•per•sion *n.*, - A slanderous remark.

de•file *v.*, - 1. To make filthy or dirty. 2. To corrupt. 3. To profane or sully. 4. To desecrate. 5. To violate the chastity of.

sed•u•lous *adj.*, - Persevering; assiduous.

tu•mult *n.*, - 1. The din and commotion of a great crowd. 2. Agitation of the mind or emotions.

tur•gid *adj.*, -1. Excessively ornate or complex. 2. Swollen or distended, as from fluid.

You Live Where?

Bobo, Alabama
Chicken, Alaska
Lefthand Bay, Alaska
Nothing, Arizona
Bald Knob, Arkansas
Greasy Corner, Arkansas
Toad Suck, Arkansas
Turkey Scratch, Arkansas
Clapper Gap, California
Doghouse Junction, California
Forks of Salmon, California
Fort Dick, California
Giants Neck, Connecticut
Weewahitchka, Florida
Yeehaw Junction, Florida
Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida
Cumming, Georgia

Climax, Georgia
Beer Bottle Crossing, Idaho
Grand Detour, Illinois
Sandwich, Illinois
Ballstown, Indiana
Buddha, Indiana
Gnaw Bone, Indiana
Manly, Iowa
What Cheer, Iowa
Monkey's Eyebrow, Kentucky
Jugville, Kentucky
Beaver Lick, Kentucky
Possum Trot, Kentucky
Fort Necessity, Louisiana
Tickfaw, Louisiana
Beans Corner Bingo, Maine
Assawoman Bay, Maryland

Thunder

Noisy things
Surround the sky
During hellish storms
Was the forms
Of awakened chaos.

Tiny, many, unique booms
Hidden, away inside
The ugly, gray clouds
Listening to the noise

Hearing loud sirens
Realizing hot flashes
Begin in dashes
Of light appear
Out of the sky.

Scaring kids
Sometimes people too!
The booms
Of thunder
Hide in the sky
Making noises
Attracting light
Deciding my flight.

Tim Hayes

"When you make the
finding yourself - even if
you're the last person on
Earth to see the light - you'll
never forget it."
-Carl Sagan

May

The ones who search for solitude
awake before mankind.

How dark the night is
to those who don't know the moon
to those who sleep under a blanket of
yellow glow
and the spell of the city streets.

The woods that no longer
sound like the woods;
the woods that sound like men
and the roar of engines
which always cut,
leaving the green stillness
bleeding.

In re-creations you'll see life
anew, continuing;
His words in the rings
of the trees,
His eyes in pearl drops of rain.

Sara Post

"What power has love but
forgiveness? In other words
by its intervention what has
been done can be undone.
What good is it otherwise?"

-William Carlos Williams,
Pictures from Brueghel, 1962

Puma Entertainment Quick Picks

Don Shanahan

Movies Released Wednesday, April 11

Josie and the Pussycats- Live-action movie of the cult classic cartoon of three pussycat girls (Rachel Leigh Cook, Tara Reid, and Rosario Dawson) who want to become rock stars.

The Adventures of Joe Dirt- The usually smarmy David Spade plays to the ultimate mullet-clad redneck who treks around odd and disgusting jobs while getting into trouble.

Movies Coming to Theaters April 13

Bridget Jones' Diary- A stressed out, 30-something British woman (Renee Zellweger) humorously deals with her job and two suitors (Hugh Grant and Colin Firth).

Movies Coming to Theaters April 20

Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles- After over ten years of Suburu ads, Paul Hogan returns to his famous "that's a knife" fish-out-of-water Aussie this time wandering the streets of Hollywood.

Freddy Got Fingered- MTV's Tom Green stars and directs this likely raunchy comedy about a 27 year-old slacker who wars with his dad about getting out of the house.

Video/DVD New Releases for April 17

Bamboozled- From director Spike Lee, a rebel black theater troupe shocks the racial stereotypes in reviving the black-face minstrel shows only with black actors performing in black-face.

Billy Elliot- This award-winning drama follows the inspirational family story of a young Irish boy (Jamie Bell) who breaks the gender mold by taking up ballet dance instead of boxing.

Hamlet- Much like Romeo & Juliet, a Shakespearean play is updated to a modern setting where young Hamlet deals with his uncle taking over the Denmark Corporation and unspoken love with Ophelia (Julia Stiles).

The Ladies Man- The radio-advice "Saturday Night Live" skit comes alive in movie form where Leon Phelps tries out his ladykiller ways on the women of Chicago.
Space Cowboys- Acting like a surreal *Grumpy Old Men/Apollo 13* combo, Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, Donald Sutherland, and James Garner play original NASA test pilots from the 50's called back into service in a time of crisis.

Tigerland- Director Joel Schumacher (*A Time to Kill*, *Batman Forever*) directs and newcomer Colin Farrell stars in this low-budget Vietnam story about a platoon of draftees that gets discharged after one of their own sacrifices his chances in combat.

The Yards- Mark Wahlberg and Joaquin Phoenix headline this thriller about crimes and corruption committed in the New York City subway yards.

Video/DVD New Releases for April 24

Finding Forrester- After a chance meeting, a reclusive writer (the legendary Sean Connery) tutors an inner city youth basketball star (newcomer Rob Brown) who turns out to be a better writer than athlete. From the director of *Good Will Hunting*, Gus Van Sant.

Little Nicky- In his usual fashion, Adam Sandler plays the wierdo son of Satan himself (Harvey Kietel) who wanders New York City rather than "take up the family business."

CD Releases for April 17

Angie Martinez: *The Up Close and Personal Project*

David Gray: 95-98

Soundtrack: *Freddy Got Fingered*
Various Artists: *Some Freaky Stuff*

CD Releases for April 24

Tim McGraw: *Set This Circus Down*
Janet Jackson: *All For You*

The Bee Gees: *This Is Where I Came In*
KRS-One: *Sneak Attack*